

WE CLAIM:

1. A system for personalizing a multiple page, bound document, comprising:

5 a leafing mechanism constructed to receive the bound document in an open or closed configuration, said leafing mechanism including an apparatus for turning pages of the document; and

a personalization mechanism capable of performing a personalization operation on a page of the document, said personalization mechanism disposed either downstream
10 or upstream from said leafing mechanism.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein said personalization mechanism comprises a laser personalizing module that includes a laser for laser personalizing a page of the bound document.

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3. The system of claim 2, wherein said laser personalizing module performs at least one of engraving or perforation.

4. The system of claim 1, further including an input mechanism, said input
20 mechanism configured to hold a plurality of bound documents in the closed configuration.

5. The system of claim 1, further including an output mechanism that is configured to receive the bound documents.

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6. The system of claim 1, wherein said personalization mechanism comprises a printer module that is configured to perform printing on a selected page of the bound document.

7. The system of claim 6, further including a second leafing mechanism for turning the pages of the bound document.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein said second leafing mechanism is disposed in said printer module.

9. The system of claim 6, wherein said printer module includes a print head downstream from said leafing mechanism, and further including a recirculating mechanism for recirculating the bound document back to said leafing mechanism after printing by the print head.

10. The system of claim 6, wherein said printer module includes an ink jet printer.

11. The system of claim 1, further including a closing mechanism associated with at least one of said leafing mechanism and said personalization mechanism for closing the bound document.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein said personalization mechanism comprises an integrated circuit chip module.

13. The system of claim 4, further including a second input mechanism.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein said leafing mechanism is configured to pass the document therethrough without turning a page of the document.

15. The system of claim 1, wherein said personalization mechanism is configured to pass the document therethrough without performing the personalization operation.

16. The system of claim 1, wherein the bound document is a passport.

17. A method of personalizing a multiple page, bound document, comprising:

5 inputting a bound document in an open or closed configuration into a leafing mechanism;

turning to a preselected page using the leafing mechanism;

inputting the document into a personalization mechanism; and

performing a personalization operation on the preselected page.

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18. The method of claim 17, wherein the personalization mechanism comprises a laser personalization module, and performing a personalization operation comprises performing a laser personalization operation.

15 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the laser personalization operation comprises at least one of laser engraving or laser perforation.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein an input mechanism containing a plurality of the closed, bound documents is located upstream of said leafing mechanism, and further including mechanically picking a bound document from the input mechanism and inputting the picked document into the leafing mechanism.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein an output mechanism is disposed downstream of the personalization mechanism, and further including receiving a personalized document in the output mechanism.

22. The method of claim 17, further including inputting the document into an additional leafing mechanism, and opening the document to another predetermined page, and printing on said another predetermined page.

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23. The method of claim 17, further including closing the document.

24. The method of claim 17, wherein the personalization mechanism
comprises an integrated circuit chip module, and performing a personalization operation
5 comprises using the integrated circuit chip module to program an integrated circuit chip
on the document.

25. The method of claim 17, wherein the document is a passport.

10 26. A passport personalized according to the method of claim 17.

27. A passport personalized using the system according to claim 1.

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